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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/840,826	04/25/2001	Jiro Hamada	Q64154	6091

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SUGHRUE, MION, ZINN, MACPEAK & SEAS  
Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20037

EXAMINER

CHEUNG, MARY DA ZHI WANG

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3621

DATE MAILED: 11/05/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

# Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/840,826

Applicant(s)

HAMADA, JIRO

Examiner

Mary Cheung

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

## Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 25 April 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

## Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 3.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

**DETAILED ACTION**

***Status of the Claims***

1. Claims 1-10 are pending.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

3. Claims 1, 4-5, 7-8 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by Valtanen, WO 99/56231.

As to claim 1, Valtanen teaches a service providing system comprising (abstract):

- a) A commerce provider server (corresponding to server A or T) connected a network (corresponding to Y) (see abstract and Fig. 1a);
- b) A purchaser terminal (corresponding to apparatus X), connected to said network and having an interface with a data holder (corresponding to Z), for receiving services from said commerce provider server and transmitting a selected service (corresponding to service purchased) and a purchaser identification number (corresponding to identifier 1) to said commerce provider server, so that said commerce provider server stores said selected service in correspondence with said purchaser identification number, and said selected service along with said purchaser identification number is written into said data holder (page 4 line 20 – page 6 line 31 and Figs. 1a-2b);

c) A data reader (corresponding to reading device B) for reading said selected service and said purchaser identification number from said data holder (page 4 line 20 – page 6 line 31 and Figs. 1a-2b);

d) A data collating terminal (device B), connected between said data reader and said network, for receiving said selected service along with said purchaser identification number in advance, and collating said selected service and said purchaser identification from said data reader with those of said commerce provider server to verify whether or not a purchaser having said data holder is a true one (page 4 line 20 – page 6 line 31 and Figs. 1a-2b).

As to claim 4, Valtanen teaches said network comprises the Internet (abstract).

As to claim 5, Valtanen teaches a service providing system comprising (abstract):

a) A commerce provider server (corresponding to server A or T) connected a network (corresponding to Y) (see abstract and Fig. 1a);

b) A purchaser terminal (corresponding to apparatus X), connected to said network and having an interface with a data holder (corresponding to Z), for receiving services from said commerce provider server and transmitting a selected service (corresponding to service purchased) and a purchaser identification number (corresponding to identifier 1) to said commerce provider server, so that said commerce provider server stores said selected service in correspondence with said purchaser identification number, and said selected service along with said purchaser identification number is written into said data holder (page 4 line 20 – page 6 line 31 and Figs. 1a-2b);

- c) A data reader (corresponding to reading device B) for reading said selected service and said purchaser identification number from said data holder (page 4 line 20 – page 6 line 31 and Figs. 1a-2b);
- d) A data collating terminal (device B), connected between said data reader and said network, for retrieving said selected service stored in said commerce provider server by using said purchaser identification number read from said data reader, and collating said selected service from said data reader with said retrieved service from said commerce provider server to verify whether or not a purchaser having said data holder is a true one (page 4 line 20 – page 6 line 31 and Figs. 1a-2b).

As to claim 7, Valtanen teaches said network comprises the Internet (abstract).

Claims 8 and 10 are rejected for the similar reasons as claims 1 and 5.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 2-3, 6 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Valtanen, WO 99/56231.

As to claims 2 and 9, Valtanen teaches various methods of using the data collating terminal to check the validity of the purchase (page 6 lines 8-31 and Figs. 1a-2b). Valtanen does not specifically state said data collating terminal retrieves said

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selected service stored in said commerce provider server by using said purchaser identification number read from said reader after it is verified that said purchaser is not said true one, and collates said selected service to verify whether or not said purchaser is said true one. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to allow the data collating terminal of Valtanen to use an alternative method of check the validity of the purchase after it is verified that said purchase is not said true one because this would improve the integrities of the data stored among the different terminals so that the entire service system can be more efficient to verify the validity of the purchase.

As to claims 3 and 6, Valtanen teaches said services are related to sales of tickets, such as airline services (page 7 line 25 – page 8 line 3). Valtanen does not specifically state the service is related to a railway service. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to allow the services in Valtanen's teachings to include a railway service because this would expand the usage environment of Valtanen's teachings and attract more services to use the system.

### ***Conclusion***

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Gebb (U. S. Patent 6,067,532) discloses redistributing, purchasing or selling tickets on the second market.

Sehr (U. S. Patent 6,085,976) discloses automatically compile, issue, utilize, and process the portable passenger card for traveling purposes, purchase of travel-related goods, and services, and for the implementation of other card-based applications.

Kay (U. S. Patent 6,223,166) discloses a cryptographic encoded, ticket issuing and collection system for real-time purchase of tickets by purchaser at remote user stations.

Takahashi et al. (JP 05235931 A) discloses a ticket vending machine sends an entered verification code and a reservation number to a reservation central processing unit, the reservation central processing unit collates the received verification code and reserved number with the recorded verification code and reserved number.

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***Inquire***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Mary Cheung whose telephone number is (703)-305-0084. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday – Thursday from 8:00 AM to 5:30 PM. The examiner can also be reached on alternate Fridays.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, James Trammell, can be reached on (703) 305-9768.

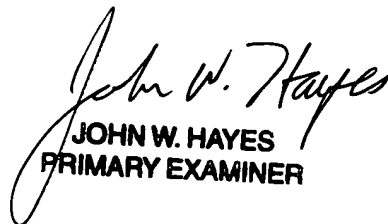
Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-1113.

The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceedings is assigned are as follows:

(703) 872-9306      (Official Communications; including After Final  
Communications labeled "BOX AF")  
(703) 746-5619      (Draft Communications)

Hand delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park 5, 2451 Crystal Drive, 7<sup>th</sup> Floor Receptionist.

Mary Cheung  
Patent Examiner  
Art Unit 3621  
October 28, 2003

  
JOHN W. HAYES  
PRIMARY EXAMINER